212 There are other recent developments in
185 language reform. One of them is the attempt to standardize the use of punctuation marks. On October 5, 1951, the Government Administration Council in Peking issued a directive on the correct use of punctuation marks.[9] Since that time the general trend has been moving toward standardization.

Another recent development is the practice of writing Chinese horizontally and from left to right. Such a practice is not new, but the Peking government is the first regime to sanction it. Following lengthy discussions on such a practice, national publications like the Enlightenment Daily and New China Monthly, since January 1, 1955, have been printing their texts horizontally.

563 As to the languages of minority nationality
212 groups, the over-all Communist policy is to help them create their own written scripts. The theory is that these people must be given their own languages, and then it will be easier for them to learn Chinese (Latinized Chinese, most probably Since there is no concentration of any minority nationals in North China, the study and use of languages of minority nationalities, therefore, are confined to such institutions as the Central College for Minority Nationalities and the medical school of Peking University.

XI. SPEAKERS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

• 191 Before 1949, the use of foreign languages,

9. Jen-min Shou-ts'e, 1952 [People's Handbook, 1952], Shanghai, Ta-kung pao, 1952, p.437.

mainly English, was found in a few large cities in North China such as Tientsin and Peking. Contact with English-speaking people in such cities and inclusion of English in school curricula accounted for the popularity of English. However, with the exception of a few foreign missionary schools in which English was taught by native speakers, instruction in English in other schools did not amount to much. This was true even of the colleges in the region. Though some college students could manage to read a publication in English with reasonable ease, they could not converse in English without great difficulty. On the average, it may be safely assumed that about one-tenth of the secondary school graduates and possible one-third of college graduates could read English with some difficulty. The over-all percentages of those who could speak it would be even smaller.

The Communist policy is to discourage the use of English or any other Western language except in advanced, specialized studies. But as late as 1953, knowledge of simple English was still required for enrollment in colleges.[10] It appears reasonable to assume that the number of senior middle school and college students able to read or speak English has not been changed a great deal. Foreign language instruction has been eliminated from junior middle school and primary school curricula.[11] Although the study of Russian has been encouraged by the Communists, it is doubtful if much has been achieved during the past five years.

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10 and 11. [See next page.]

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•191 There is no statistical information on the number of people able to read or speak English in East China, but if the curricula for senior middle schools and colleges are any indication, 12 then there could not possibly be more than 50,000. As to the number of people in this region who can speak or read other Western languages, there is even less information to serve as a basis for conjecture.

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10. I-chiu-wu-ssu-nien T'ou-k'ao Ta-hsüeh Chih-tao [Guide to Taking College Entrance Examinations in 1954], Hong Kong, Hsüeh-sheng shu-tien, 1954, pp. 98-100.

11. Wu-nien-lai Ti Kung-fei Chiao-yü Kung-tso [Communist Education in the Past Five Years], Taipei, Sixth Section, Central Committee Nationalist Party, 1955, p. 16.

12. The total number of senior middle school graduates in China from 1949 to 1953 was 216,000. It is believed that of this number no more than one-fourth could be in this region. People's Handbook, 1955, pp. 571-73.